

in the aftermath of disasters such as the ValuJet crash in Southern Florida, as well as floods, fires, tornados, and hurricanes.

In order to fully capture Captain Williford's amazing contribution to the Pentagon relief effort, I would like to submit an article written by reporter Joy Davis-Platt of the *Hernando Times*, published on October 15, 2001.

SALVATION ARMY HAILS CAPTAIN'S
HOMECOMING

(By Joy Davis-Platt)

BROOKSVILLE.—Complete with an all-American picnic in the park, Hernando County's Salvation Army welcomed home one of its own on Sunday.

Capt. Tim Williford, head of the Salvation Army's Hernando County corps, recently spent two weeks in Washington, D.C., helping with terrorism relief efforts.

Besides returning to his wife, Denise, and daughters, Lindsey, 7, and Caitlyn, 2, on Oct. 2, Williford came back to the congregation at the Salvation Army's church where he preaches. "The support I've gotten has been really great," said Williford, who is expected to receive a proclamation from Hernando County commissioners and a congressional recognition from U.S. Representative KAREN THURMAN. "The support and thanks were more than I could have ever imagined."

Standing on the park's white band shell, Williford recounted the time he spent in the nation's capital helping to keep six mobile canteen trucks stocked and ready to feed 6,000 relief workers three meals a day.

After several days of helping feed relief workers, Williford's assignment changed to procurement.

Much like the Grape Nehi-drinking Cpl. Walter "Radar" O'Reilly in the television series *M.A.S.H.*, Williford said he was charged with finding all manner of necessary items for law enforcement and military personnel. During his tour, he scrounged everything from tool belts to sunglasses to industrial fans.

"People started calling me Radar," he said. "Anything they told me to get, I'd find a way to go out and get it."

Unlike other disasters during which he has joined relief efforts such as the storm of March 1993 and the ValuJet crash in South Florida, Williford said this assignment left him and his family feeling apprehensive.

When his daughters ask if he is going to fight in a war, Williford, 38, said he tells them he is too old to fight in battle, but not too old to do his part. Their part, he tells them, is to support him and wait for him to come home.

"This one is much more emotional," said Williford's wife, Denise, who is also a captain with the Salvation Army. "It's not like any other natural disaster."

Williford expects to be called to help with recovery efforts in New York sometime after Easter. When he goes, his wife said, she will take care of things at home.

"We're preparing for that," she said. "That's all we can do."

Salvation Army volunteer Les Varwig was up at 4 a.m. on Sunday making sure the turkey was ready for the afternoon picnic. During his two years in Brooksville, Williford has gained the love and admiration of his congregation, Varwig said.

"We are all awfully proud of the captain," he said. "He's a real go-getter."

For three years, Salvation Army volunteer Harriet Varwig has helped out with local emergencies like sinkholes and fires and said she understands why Williford feels compelled to help.

"It's such a blessing to be able to help people," she said. "In many ways, we get more out of it than the people we serve."

Williford said the image that will stay with him is of the Washington Monument lit against the nighttime sky. Nearby, the Pentagon building was lit with bright lights while investigators continued their efforts into the night.

"Driving past, there was a moment when the monument looked as if it was rising out of that gaping hole in the side of the Pentagon," he said. "It was the ultimate symbol of power next to the ultimate symbol of freedom. That's when you see what the cost of freedom really is."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this man, who stepped in to help others in need. Captain Tim Williford truly represents the very best of our great, loving, kind, and giving nation.

APPLAUDING THE GAO

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, The challenges this country has faced in recent months are unlike any in our history, and have called on all Americans to answer challenges they never expected to face. The GAO and its employees have performed above and beyond their mission, and deserve Congressional recognition. I encourage my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts.

The GAO website states that it "exists to support the Congress in meeting its Constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and accountability of the federal government for the American people. GAO examines the use of public funds, evaluates federal programs and activities, and provides analyses, options, recommendations, and other assistance to help the Congress make effective oversight, policy, and funding decisions. In this context, GAO works to continuously improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the federal government through financial audits, program reviews and evaluations, analyses, legal opinions, investigations, and other services."

The service the GAO and its employees have provided likely goes far beyond what was ever imagined by "other services". In these past few weeks, 130 Members of the House of Representatives, various House Committees and their staffs have been relocated from their offices in the Longworth House Office Building. In order to create space for these displaced Congressional offices, hundreds of GAO employees have been moved. In allowing Congressional staffs into their personal offices, these public servants have significantly inconvenienced themselves, sacrificing some of their personal space to further their commitment to good governance.

My staff and I would especially like to thank Greg Carroll, Linda L. Harmon, Chet Janik, Patricia J. Manthe, Karia J. Springer-Hamilton, and William Updegraff. We sincerely appreciate what an inconvenience it is to not have access to your own office, and thank them for their efforts, and the efforts of all the GAO, to

make us comfortable enough to continue to do our work for the American people.

I would like to thank and publicly recognize the employees of the U.S. General Accounting Office who have been relocated in order to create office space for Congressional members and staff. My staff and I truly appreciate their efforts and are thankful for their dedication to this nation help.

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT CEREMONY OF FRED LEBOW STATUE, FOUNDER OF NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy and pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the permanent endowment ceremony of the Fred Lebow monument, to honor the late founder of the great New York City Marathon, the world's greatest marathon which will take place on November 4, 2001.

Seven years ago, Mr. Daniel S. Mitrovich spearheaded the effort to honor Fred Lebow, founder of the New York City Marathon, by erecting a statue of the visionary athlete. I was honored to have been a part of the monumental event that commemorated the creator of this great race. Fred Lebow, as Director of the New York City Road Runners Club, Inc., founded the marathon and nurtured it from a 126-runner race to one the largest and most well-known marathons in the world. This year, the grand monument will be waiting at the finish line to greet weary runners and will later find a permanent home at the 67th Street entrance to Central Park, fulfilling the promise Mr. Mitrovich made 10 years ago when he said that he would ensure that a statue of Fred Lebow would someday stand in Central Park.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the continued dedication of the New York Road Runners Club, Inc. and the New York City Marathon Tribute Committee. Their work is essential to maintaining the spirit of the New York City Marathon and helps fuel the great spirit of the city itself. The New York City Marathon has never been more important than it will be this year. Organized under the theme "United We Stand," this race of endurance and power represents the will and essence of the city, New Yorkers, Americans, and of peace-loving people all over the world. We are all indebted to Mr. Lebow, who lost his battle with brain cancer on October 9, 1994, for organizing and fostering a great athletic and humanitarian event and the permanent endowment of his likeness in Central Park is fitting and worthy of celebration. Also, as proof of his accomplishments, Mr. Lebow was inducted in the 2001 National Distance Running Hall of Fame.

The New York City Marathon has united people across all walks of life since its inception 31 years ago because it is both a test of perseverance and a celebration of life. Runners vary in athletic ability, age, race and religion but share a common desire to run New York City. This year, runners will share something else as well. They will share an understanding that they are integral parts of New

York's resurrecting spirit and perhaps that knowledge will energize flagging feet as they cover the great length of New York City. The sense of unity among the human family will be invincible when over 30,000 runners from around the world join in New York City to bond with it as only runners can do.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fred Lebow's life achievements and the permanent endowment of his statue in Central Park, as well as commending the continued efforts of Daniel Mitrovich to preserve the integrity and excellence of the New York City Marathon.

**COLLIER ELEMENTARY EXCELS
AS BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, educators from Collier Elementary School, which is located in my congressional district, recently visited Washington, D.C. to accept the 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. At this time, in particular, we must remember and honor the many men and women who daily are entrusted to enrich the lives of our children. Collier earned this prestigious award because of its unique dedication to academic excellence, quality teaching, parental involvement, and community support.

Collier Elementary is located in the heart of a working class community in the Harlandale Independent School District in southeast San Antonio. As a former Harlandale school board member, I understand the social and economic challenges facing students, teachers, and administrators. I am greatly pleased that Collier is a model neighborhood school where children can master the basics with adequate textbooks and equipment in an environment that is safe, disciplined, and drug-free.

Schools are a reflection of our community and it takes everyone working together to make them quality institutions. The administration, teachers, staff, students and their families should be commended for their hard work and dedication to making Collier an exemplary school. The entire Collier Elementary community deserves due praise for being designated by the Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER RICHARDS OF VISTA, CA, FOR COMPLETING BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES AS A NOAA/NSF TEACHER AT SEA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize one of my

constituents, Ms. Jennifer Richards of Vista, CA, for recently completing back-to-back voyages as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Science Foundation Teacher at Sea (NOAA/NSF Teacher at Sea).

The NOAA/NSF Teacher at Sea program places a school teacher on a NOAA research vessel to participate in the scientific research being conducted on board and to record their experience. Jennifer is a High School Earth Science Teacher at Guajome Park Academy, Vista, California, who recently participated in the first leg of the EPIC Research Cruise on the NOAA vessel, the *Ronald H. Brown*. She departed from San Diego, California on September 5, 2001, and sailed to the Galapagos Islands completing her cruise on October 6, 2001. She then stayed in the Galapagos Islands conducting research until October 11, 2001. Throughout her cruise Jennifer provided lessons concerning her cruise varying in topics from longitude and latitude to signal flags. Jennifer also kept daily logs describing her trip to her students back home in Vista.

The Teacher at Sea program receives an average of 165 applications for 35 voyages, which is approximately the same ratio of competitive grants that are funded by NOAA and NSF. Jennifer was selected from a competitive pool of approximately 35 elementary and secondary education teachers who were interested in this particular voyage. To qualify, Jennifer was required to complete an application which includes 2 professional recommendations and questions regarding the applicant's ability to use this voyage as a teaching tool to benefit her students and colleagues.

As a former teacher, I understand how tough it is to engage children as active participants in their lessons. Jennifer's proven creative ability to communicate science and research to her students was the reason that she was selected for this research voyage. I applaud Jennifer Richards for dedication to her students and her efforts to improve science education.

**THE CHARITY ACCOUNTABILITY
ACT, H.R. 3192**

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3192, the Disaster Relief Charities Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, seven weeks have passed since the barbaric attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the thwarted hijacking attempt in Pennsylvania, yet victims and their families have not received the funding they desperately need.

Initial reports have indicated that more than \$1.2 billion has been collected by 196 charitable organizations.

While this overwhelming support by Americans has been gratifying, there is a great deal

of concern that the funds raised may not be going directly to the intended beneficiaries—the victims and their families—and instead are being diverted or, worse yet, miss their intended goal.

More than 100 families in my congressional district have been affected by the horror of the September 11th attack in New York. Many of these families have been calling my office requesting information and assistance on how and where to go to receive these donated funds.

Accordingly, I am introducing H.R. 3192 to provide a full accounting of:

All funds received to date;

The amount spent and distributed and for what purpose;

The criteria used for disseminating these funds;

The percentage of funds donated that will actually go to the victims; and

The administrative costs for allocating these funds.

In addition, the Charity Accountability Act will provide both the victims and their families, as well as those wanting to donate, with a clearinghouse of all charitable organizations participating in this important fund-raising initiative.

It is my intention that this legislation will insure that the money raised to assist Americans during any disaster event will go to the intended beneficiary.

Specifically, this legislation will establish a five member board to: (1) Collect and provide information to assist both the victims and those wishing to contribute to various disaster funds; (2) collect and maintain an on-going accounting of all funds collected and disbursed; (3) obtain and review the criteria used by the various relief funds to pay out these funds; and (4) report to both the President and the Congress on the status of these funds.

The outpouring by the American people to the disastrous events of September 11th should not be wrought with confusion or cynicism on how the funds are being distributed or possibly misdirected. It is obvious that Americans want their donated funds to go directly to the victims and their families. Any funds collected for this intended purpose and spent otherwise would place a black mark on the entire philanthropic community, dissuading and jeopardizing any future donations.

Accordingly I encourage my colleagues to review this important legislation and welcome their support.